



# SINI 5 FOCUS!

Volume 1 Number 1

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Welcome to the inaugural edition of *SINI 5 Focus!* an “occasional” newsletter for Title I schools implementing a restructuring plan. You are included in the distribution of this newsletter because of your status as a school in need of improvement at level 5 of the accountability sequence.

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide a vehicle for sharing ideas for managing the activities you’ve included in your improvement plans, particularly your commitment to **monitor the implementation** and the **impact** of your plans. It will serve to communicate insights and updates that you can use to guide your work to reach the goals defined in your plan.

## SINI 5 Focus!

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## Learning from Others: The Indistar Blog

The developers of the online *Steps to Success* process and tools, the Academic Development Institute, hosts of the Center on Innovation and Improvement ([www.centerii.org](http://www.centerii.org)), have started a blog for coaches, sponsors (state agencies, districts, etc.), and schools to provide an opportunity to share their school improvement experiences. Indistar is the original name of the online process, and many states and agencies have customized the tool to suit their unique needs. There is much to be learned from the ten states and agencies using the indicators to guide their improvement planning and implementation process.

While NH schools were not required to continue using the *Steps to Success* online tool to complete their plan and monitor the plan's implementation, the lessons learned by others can apply to many aspects of school improvement. Here's a recent posting from the blog to give you a sample of what you'll find.

### **Initiative Overload**

Does this sound familiar?

- the District selects a new reading series and contracts for 10 hours of training for each teacher
- the State won a grant to conduct trainings to build 'transformational leadership' skills for SINI principals
- in response to 25% turnover in the past two years, the District launched a new staff induction program requiring 2 hours per week for all new staff as well as the veteran staff serving as mentors
- the school is one of five in the district participating in an RtI pilot
- to address behavior and climate issues, the school is in its second year of PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports )

As I've learned in my visits with the schools I'm coaching, this list is not extreme or unusual. Struggling schools have been involved in a variety of reform initiatives over recent years, each promising to remedy gaps in student achievement. Some are school selected, others chosen by the district or the state. How can a coach be sure Indistar isn't viewed as adding to "initiative overload"? Does Indistar provide a way for schools to weave together multiple goals, objectives, and activities into a realistic plan for success?

I plan to use Indistar *Step 4: Assess Indicators* to help the school team find opportunities to bring coherence to their change process. When the team assigns a "priority" rating to an indicator, I'll ensure that they examine the research-based indicator within the context of existing instructional models, curricula, or leadership initiatives. I've already scoped out the location of large blank walls and have at hand a roll of chart paper and assorted colored post-its. These will be the tools we'll use to map activities, objectives, timelines and staff responsibilities using an "affinity diagram" or similar exercise.

The same initiative map will be a critical reference when the team is rating the "opportunity" value of an indicator. For example, in schools where an RtI pilot is underway, indicators such as "Teachers individualize instruction based on pre-test results . . ." and "Instructional teams use student learning data to identify students in need of instructional support or enhancement" can be rated "relatively easy to address" because the goals and objectives are likely included in the RtI pilot. School leaders participating in leadership training will be able to integrate indicators such as "The principal monitors curriculum and classroom instruction regularly" as part of their existing training program.

As a coach, I recognize (and empathize with) the reality of the intense external demands on a school's time, energy, and capacity. My aim is to lessen anxiety by showing the team how to use the Indistar process to bring order to diverse (and occasionally competing) initiatives.

Have you devised ways to keep "initiative overload" from sapping vital energy and time from your team's improvement process? Please share your ideas and stories. Karen

You're invited to log on frequently to read the other postings and to subscribe to receive new postings via email. I hope you find many of them useful. (<http://indistar.blogspot.com>)

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## SINI 5 Timeline

Wondering about the requirements for the SINI 5 implementation year? The timeline below is an outline of the activities of the NH DOE and the schools and their districts. Your primary responsibility is to implement your restructuring plan and to provide a progress report to the Department after the conclusion of the school year.

### SINI 5+ Restructuring Implementation Timeline

Approximate Date	NH DOE Actions	SINI 5+School & District/LEA Actions
Spring 2010	AYP results announced Title I schools notified of status	Continue and conclude planning phase activities
Summer 2010	NH DOE Title I Project Managers maintain communication with SINI 5 restructuring schools	Conduct summer activities according to the restructuring plan; Monitor and record evidence of progress toward goals in the plan
Fall 2010	NH DOE contracts with a coach to provide support and feedback on the school's progress using the online system, phone calls and face to face meetings; topics for discussion include successes, challenges, resource needs, reporting requirements	Communicate with NH DOE Title I Project Manager to report successes, challenges, resource needs Continue implementation of plan; monitor and record evidence of progress toward short and long term goals
Winter 2011	Maintain communication between coaches and among schools, using online, in person, and other means	Participate in meetings with support providers (coaches) for restructuring schools; share experiences with others
Spring 2011	Continue support for SINI 5 schools; maintain communication with schools	Continue plan implementation; continue monitoring plan implementation and gathering evidence of improvement in student achievement and instructional practice
Spring 2011	AYP Results released NH DOE Title I Project Managers communicate with schools; discuss exiting restructuring or continuing, depending on AYP results	Celebrate success of AYP performance and/ or continue plan implementation; monitor and gather evidence of progress; revise and resubmit restructuring plan in light of new student data if necessary
Summer 2011	Determine expectations for schools continuing in restructuring	Prepare SINI Progress Report for restructuring implementation year

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## Monitoring Implementation

In your restructuring plan, you described how you will monitor your plan's implementation. If you included activities related to changes in instructional practice, you're probably using some sort of instructional walk-through or teacher survey to capture "data" on classroom activities.

For example, if one of your goals is to improve teachers' skills at differentiating instruction, you can distribute surveys asking teachers to report the changes they've made, how well they've worked, and what adjustments they might make to improve their approach next time. Many of you are familiar with the suggestions for collecting perception data in the Victoria Bernhardt books – *The School Portfolio*, *The School Portfolio Toolkit*, and *Data Analysis for Continuous School Improvement* (Eye on Education, Larchmont NY). A highly regarded tool used by many schools is the Charlotte Danielson framework for teaching. There are options for tools to monitor implementation of new instructional practices from a number of sources.

Another option for monitoring the implementation of new team structures is to capture meeting agendas and minutes in a shared computer file. When the leadership team is reviewing the restructuring plan to report progress, the minutes can be a source of evidence that new leadership and governance models have been implemented.

Of course, the challenge is to collect data of various types – perception, achievement, team structures – in manageable and efficient formats. Have you developed systems for gathering and storing data about your plan's implementation? Send a description of your process to me ([karen.laba@ed.state.nh.us](mailto:karen.laba@ed.state.nh.us)) and I'll include it in the next issue of *SINI 5 Focus*!

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## SINI 5 (restructuring implementation) Schools

***\*PLUS SINI 4 and 5 "hold" schools (made AYP for the previous year; must make two years to exit SINI status)***

In case you were wondering, there are a number of Title I schools involved in implementing a restructuring plan as required by federal regulations. We hope to convene the group in either online meetings or in person as the budget allows. In the meantime, you may be interested in contacting your peers to learn how they're tackling a challenge similar to yours.

Here's a listing of SINI 4 "Hold," SINI 5 and SINI 6 schools by district with principal contact information.

## SINI 4, 5, 6 Contacts

SAU/ District	School	Principal Email, Phone
<b>SINI 4 Hold (choosing to implement)</b>		
#61 Farmington	Henry Wilson Memorial	Jeffrey Keene <a href="mailto:jkeene@sau61.com">jkeene@sau61.com</a> Tel: 603-755-2181 Steve Woodward <a href="mailto:swoodward@sau61.com">swoodward@sau61.com</a>
#38 Hinsdale	Hinsdale Elementary	Scott Lyman <a href="mailto:slyman@hnhds.org">slyman@hnhds.org</a> Tel: 603 336-5332
#33 Raymond	Gove MS	Ellen Small <a href="mailto:e.small@sau33.com">e.small@sau33.com</a> Tel: 603-895-3394
<b>SINI 5 – Implementation</b>		
#82 Chester	Chester Academy	Leslie Leahy <a href="mailto:lesliel@chesteracademy.org">lesliel@chesteracademy.org</a> Tel: 603-887-3621 (ext. 145) Maggie Holm <a href="mailto:maggieh@chesteracademy.org">maggieh@chesteracademy.org</a>
#11 Dover	Dover MS	Christine Boston <a href="mailto:c.boston@doover.k12.nh.us">c.boston@doover.k12.nh.us</a> Tel: 603-516-7204
#18 Franklin	Bessie Rowell	Kevin Barbour <a href="mailto:kbarbour@franklin.k12.nh.us">kbarbour@franklin.k12.nh.us</a> Tel: 603-934-5116
#27 Litchfield	Griffin Memorial School	Bo Schlichter & Amanda Lecaroz <a href="mailto:bschlichter@litchfieldsd.org">bschlichter@litchfieldsd.org</a> <a href="mailto:alecaroz@litchfieldsd.org">alecaroz@litchfieldsd.org</a> Tel: 603-424-5931
#37 Manchester	Beech Street Elementary	Ellie Murphy <a href="mailto:emurphy@mansd.org">emurphy@mansd.org</a> Tel: 603-624-6314
#37 Manchester	Henry Wilson Elementary	Linda Durand <a href="mailto:ldurand@mansd.org">ldurand@mansd.org</a> Tel: 603-624-6350
#42 Nashua	Fairgrounds Elementary 03060-4396	Chuck Healy <a href="mailto:healeyc@nashua.edu">healeyc@nashua.edu</a> Tel: 603-594-4318
#42 Nashua	Ledge Street Elementary	Janet Valeri <a href="mailto:valerij@nashua.edu">valerij@nashua.edu</a> Tel: 603-594-4337
#42 Nashua	Mt. Pleasant Elementary	Mary Frances Tintle <a href="mailto:tintlem@nashua.edu">tintlem@nashua.edu</a> Tel: 603-594-4331
#43 Newport	Newport MS	Barry Connell <a href="mailto:bconnell@newport.k12.nh.us">bconnell@newport.k12.nh.us</a> Tel: 603-863-2414
#64 Wakefield	Paul School	Traci Lynn Moser <a href="mailto:tmoser@wakefield.k12.nh.us">tmoser@wakefield.k12.nh.us</a> Tel: 603 522-8891
#59 Winnisquam Regional	Winnisquam MS	Pamela A. Miller <a href="mailto:pmiller@wrsdsau59.org">pmiller@wrsdsau59.org</a> Suzan Gannett <a href="mailto:sgannett@wrsdsau59.org">sgannett@wrsdsau59.org</a> Tel: 603-286-7143
<b>SINI 5 HOLD</b>		
#34 Hillsboro Deering	Hillsboro Deering ES	Noreen McAloon, Ed.D. <a href="mailto:nmcloon@hdsd.k12.nh.us">nmcloon@hdsd.k12.nh.us</a> Tel: 603-464-1110
<b>SINI 6 -- Implementation</b>		
#37 Manchester	Northwest Elementary	Shelly Larochelle <a href="mailto:slarochelle@mansd.org">slarochelle@mansd.org</a> Tel: 603-624-6321